

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-30 have been rejected.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under King, et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,319,542 (King) in view of the article "Come, and they will built it," Geller, Scott, June 1999. *Manufacturing Systems* (Geller Article). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 1, relates to a method for a manufacturer to automate a catalog process. The method includes creating a catalog of configurable products including at least one of non-commodity products and services, and presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the presenting being via a communication medium to a purchaser. The catalog allows the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products. The data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of a third party provided configuration tool.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 29, relates to a computer system which includes a processor, memory coupled to the processor, and a communications port configured to transmit a data file. The data file includes a catalog of configurable products with at least one non-commodity product and service to be received by a purchaser. The data file enables the purchaser to incorporate the data file into a procurement system. The catalog allows the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products. The data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of a third party provided configuration tool.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 30, relates to a system for automating a catalog process. The system includes means for creating a catalog of configurable products with at least one non-commodity product and service; and means for presenting a data file. The data file includes the catalog presented via a communication medium to a purchaser. The catalog allows the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products. The data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of a third party provided configuration tool.

King discloses a system which facilitates the user in electronically ordering items from suppliers. The system includes an electronic catalog and an electronic requisition facility. The electronic catalog includes a public catalog (element 106) and a private catalog (element 110). The public catalog is stored on a publicly available database 104. The private catalog resides on a customer's computer system. The electronic requisition facility enables a customer to electronically create purchase requisitions based upon the information provided in the catalogs and to route the requisitions through the appropriate approval process within an enterprise.

The Geller Article discloses a manufacturing system configurator. The disclosed configurator guides buyers to alternate products that match the customer's requirements, while optimizing the configuration based on the seller's criteria. The Geller article discusses a variety of configurators including features and options configurators, rules based configurators, object oriented configurators, table based configurators and constraint based configurators, as well as configurators which are hybrids of the various types of configurators.

King and the Geller Article, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method for a manufacturer to *automate* a catalog process, much less such a method which includes creating a catalog of configurable products including *at least one of non-commodity products and services*, and presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the presenting via a communication medium to a purchaser, *the catalog allowing the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products*, much less such a method in which *the data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of a third party provided configuration tool*, all as required by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over King and the Geller Article. Claims 2-28 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.

King and the Geller Article, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a computer system which includes a processor, memory coupled to the processor, and a communications port configured to transmit a data file where the data file includes a catalog of configurable products with *at least one non-commodity product and service* to be received by a purchaser much less such a system in which the data file enables the purchaser to incorporate the data file into a procurement system and *the catalog allows the purchaser to host the data file and*

to configure non-commodity products much less such a method in which the data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of a third party provided configuration tool, all as required by independent claim 29. Accordingly, claim 29 is allowable over King and the Geller Article.

King and the Geller Article, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a system for *automating* a catalog process, much less such a system which includes means for creating a catalog of configurable products with *at least one non-commodity product and service*; and means for presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog presented via a communication medium to a purchaser, *the catalog allowing the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products much less such a method in which the data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of a third party provided configuration tool*, all as required by independent claim 30. Accordingly, claim 30 is allowable over King and the Geller Article.

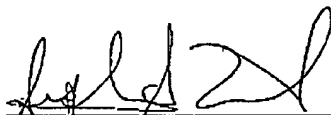
Additionally, Applicants respectfully maintain their contention that the combination of King and the Geller Article is improper because King and the Geller Article are nonanalogous prior art that have been combined with the benefit of hindsight and because King and the Geller Article fail to provide a suggestion to be combined.

Furthermore, Applicants continue to reserve the right to later assert a request for documentary proof of any officially noticed facts set forth in the Office Action should Examiner not find Applicant's claims allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the USPTO on December 5, 2003.

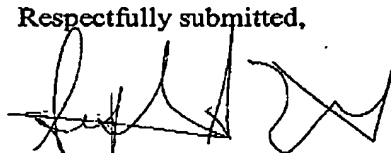


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12/5/03

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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